

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the non-final Office action dated June 26, 2006, and are being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111. Claims 41-73 are pending in the application. The Examiner withdrew claims 47, 54, 70, and 73 from consideration following applicants' Response to Restriction Requirement, filed April 6, 2006, in which applicants did not include these claims in the list of claims that read upon the elected species (Figure 1). In the Office action, the Examiner (1) objected to claims 56 and 61 (as being allowable if rewritten in independent form); and (2) rejected claims 41-46, 48-53, 55, 57-60, 62-69, 71, and 72 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,156,037 to LeHuec et al.

Applicants traverse the rejections, contending that rejected claims 41-46, 48-53, 55, 57-60, 62-69, 71, and 72 are patentable over the cited reference. Nevertheless, to expedite issuance of a patent, applicants have taken the following actions:

- (1) canceled pending claims 61 and 65-73, without prejudice;
- (2) amended pending independent claim 41 to incorporate all of the limitations in "allowable" (objected to) claim 61;
- (3) amended pending dependent claim 49 to correct a typographical error in the stated dependency (the claim should depend from claim 41, not claim 44);
- (4) added new independent claim 74, which corresponds to "allowable" (objected to) claim 56 rewritten in independent form; and
- (5) added new dependent claims 75-95, based on pending dependent claims 42-55, 57-60, and 62-64, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the invention recited in "allowable" (objected to) claim 56 (now new independent claim 74).

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims at a later time. Applicants request that withdrawn dependent claims 47 and 54 be reinstated, since independent

claim 41, as amended, and new independent claim 74 are generic claims that link all three species identified in the restriction requirement dated March 17, 2006. In view of the above amendments and these remarks, applicants respectfully request consideration of the current claims, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Exemplary support for the new claims is shown, without limitation, in the following table:

| Claim | Support |
|------------------|----------------|
| 41 (Independent) | Claims 41+61 |
| 74 (Independent) | Claims 41+56 |
| 75 | Claim 42 |
| 76 | Claim 43 |
| 77 | Claim 44 |
| 78 | Claim 45 |
| 79 | Claim 46 |
| 80 | Claim 47 |
| 81 | Claim 48 |
| 82 | Claim 49 |
| 83 | Claim 50 |
| 84 | Claim 51 |
| 85 | Claim 52 |
| 86 | Claim 53 |
| 87 | Claim 54 |
| 88 | Claim 55 |
| 89 | Claim 57 |
| 90 | Claim 58 |
| 91 | Claim 59 |
| 92 | Claim 60 |
| 93 | Claim 62 |
| 94 | Claim 63 |
| 95 | Claim 64 |

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If there are any questions regarding this communication, or if a telephone interview would in any

way advance prosecution of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney of record, James R. Abney, or his associate Stanley M. Hollenberg (Reg. No. 47,658), both at the same telephone number.

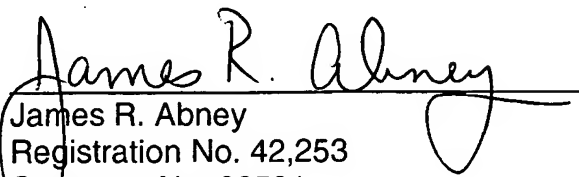
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on September 14, 2006.


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Respectfully submitted,

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